

Why Is Nothing Ever Enough?

Alicia Bruxvoort

BIG IDEA

True contentment in Christ produces a life of joyful generosity, because God transforms our hearts before He provides for our needs.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Philippians 4:10-13, Philippians 4:14-19, Philippians 4:19-20, Hebrews 13:8, Philippians 3:8

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1. In Philippians 4:11-13, Paul says he has learned to be content whether he has plenty or is in need. Why do you think contentment can be just as challenging in seasons of abundance as it is in seasons of lack?
 2. What is one area of your life where your contentment has become attached to a moving target? (For example: finances, career, relationships, parenting, health, recognition, retirement, or something else.) What would it look like to anchor that area more firmly in Christ this week?
 3. Who has modeled generosity in your life? What have you learned from their example?
 4. In what areas of your life are you striving for self-sufficiency? What would Christ-sufficiency look like in those places instead?
 5. When you think about generosity, what tends to hold you back most?
 - Fear that you won't have enough?
 - Lack of time?
 - Desire for comfort or control?
 - Something else?
 6. Paul calls the Philippians' gift "a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." How does viewing generosity as an act of worship—not just a transaction—change your perspective?
 7. Read Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Hebrews 13:15-16; Proverbs 11:24-25; Proverbs 22:9. What do you learn about generosity from these verses? How is God speaking to you personally through these verses? In what ways are you encouraged? affirmed? challenged? What's one practical way you can respond to what the Lord is saying?

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Stand firm in the Lord by pursuing unity, choosing joy, replacing worry with prayer, and filling your mind with Christ's truth so that you experience the peace of God.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Philippians 4:1, Philippians 4:2-3, Philippians 4:4-5, Philippians 4:6-7, Philippians 4:8-9, 1 Corinthians 2:10-13, 1 Corinthians 2:16

8. Paul promises that "my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). What's the difference between trusting God to meet your needs and expecting Him to fulfill every want?

9. The Philippians didn't just send Paul money—they became partners (koinōnia) in his ministry (Philippians 1:5; 4:14-15). What are some tangible ways we can partner in God's mission through generosity (think beyond simply giving financially, too!)

10. Think of an area of your life where you're struggling to believe Christ is enough. What would it look like to be more Christ-dependent rather than self sufficient in that part of your life?